

Remarks

The final Office Action mailed October 27, 2006 allowed claims 22, 23 and 31-33, and rejected claims 1-9, 11-13, 15-21 and 25-30.

The Applicant has hereinabove cancelled claims 1-9, 11-13, 15-21 and 25-30 without prejudice, and added new dependent claims 34 and 35 to depend from allowed independent claims 22 and 31, respectively. Support for new claims 34 and 35 is found including in cancelled independent claim 25, and are submitted as being patentable as depending from an allowable base claim. Upon allowance, the Applicant requests grouping of claim 34 with the other claims associated with base claim 22.

The above amendments are believed to place the present application in immediate condition for allowance. The Applicant reserves the right to bring a continuing application to continue prosecution of the cancelled subject matter.

Objection to Specification

The Examiner objected to the text of the specification at page 11, lines 1-4 and suggested alternative language for the definition of the recited "means" element. Since the claims in which the "means" element appeared have been cancelled from the application, it is believed that this objection has now been obviated and correction is no longer required.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 20 and 21 were rejected under §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. It is believed that the cancellation of these claims serves to obviate this rejection.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-9, 11-13, 15-21 and 25-30 were rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,575,239 to Bradburn et al. in view of a number of other various references. This rejection is respectfully traversed, and has been obviated by the cancellation without prejudice of the rejected claims.

Allowed Claims

The Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of claims 22-23 and 31-33.

Conclusion

This is intended to be a complete response to the final Office Action mailed October 27, 2006. Reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims in the application are respectfully requested. Should any questions arise concerning this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the below signed Attorney.

Respectfully Submitted,

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